



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,423	12/01/2000	Koichi Shibata	009683-363	1425

7590 03/17/2006

Platon N. Mandros
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

ARANI, TAGHI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2131

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/726,423	Applicant(s) SHIBATA, KOICHI	
	Examiner Taghi T. Arani	Art Unit 2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are examined and pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/07/2005 with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 5,673,373 to Nosaki et al. (hereinafter Nosaki) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,810 to Jeyachandran et al. (prior art of record, hereinafter "Jeyachandran").

As per claims 1, 8 and 15, Nosaki teaches an apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image, comprising (Abstract, Fig.1, Fig 7 and associated texts:

a receiving unit receiving a print job data and a password transmitted with the print job data [col.7, lines 18-27, i.e. print server 2 receives user specific data and print data including a password decided by a user];

a storage device storing the print job data and the password received by said receiving unit in correspondence with each other [col. 8, lines 1-10, for a new user a file is opened and print job specific data is decided and entered in the user print job comparison table ,see also col. 12, lines 30-45];

Art Unit: 2131

a password accepting unit that accepts a password [col. 6, line 66 through col. 7, line 2 and lines 18-27] ; and

a controller permitting, when the password accepted by said password accepting unit matches the password stored in said storage device in correspondence with the print job data, print output of the print job data stored in said storage device in correspondence with said password [col. 7, lines 27-35, i.e. when obtaining the print output, the print output is performed for the user by inputting user specific data and the password through the control panel 24];

Nosaki does not teach but Jeyachandran teaches wherein, said controller permits, when the password accepted by said password accepting unit is a prescribed password different from the password stored in said storage device in correspondence with the print job data [col. 9, lines 24-35, i.e. identification means for identifying an operator based on password that is input when the operator is a common user or the operator is a manager and a control means for displaying a menu screen for a common user , and for, the manager], a prescribed operation on the print job data stored in said storage device [col. 9, lines 35-45, i.e. when the operator is a manger a permission means for permitting the operator to instruct the deletion of all printing instructions stored in a print queue].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nosaki's system with that of Jeyachandran's control means to permit when the password accepted by said password accepting unit is a prescribed password (manager's password) different from the password stored in said storage device (common user's password) in correspondence with the print job data, a prescribed operation (such as deletion of job) on the print job data stored in said storage

Art Unit: 2131

with a motivation to provide an authority greater than given to a common user in order to provide management control for resources employed by a plurality of users

[Jeyachandran, col. 1, line 62 through col. 2, line 3].

As per claims 2,9 and 16, Nosaki as modified teaches the apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, wherein said prescribed operation includes cancellation of the print job data stored in said storage device [Jeyachandran ,col. 9, 43-44].

As per claims 3, 10 and 17, Nosaki as modified teaches the apparatus/method and computer program products for printing an image according to claims 1,8 and 15 respectively, wherein said prescribed operation includes print output of the print job data stored in said storage device [Jeyachandran, col. 41, lines 26-27].

As per claims 4, 11 and 18, Nosaki as modified teaches the apparatus for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, wherein said controller permits said prescribed operation for each print job data stored in said storage device [Jeyachandran, col. 9, line 43-44].

As per claims 5, 12 and 19, Hoaby teaches the apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image according to claim 1,8 and 15 respectively, wherein said password accepting unit takes a password by receiving the password transmitted from an external device [Jeyachandran, col. 10, lines 40-44, i.e. a storage medium on which is stored a program, which comprises; an identification step of ascertaining whether an operator is a manager].

Art Unit: 2131

As per claim 6,13 and 20, Nosaki does not teach but Jeyachandran teaches the apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, further comprising an information taking unit [Jeyachandran, co. 9, lines 1-3, i.e. when the operator is a manager, permitting the manager to log in and displaying a menu screen (information taking unit) for the manager, see also col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 6 disclosing object information selection means and change means for taking information related to prescribed operation] taking information related to said prescribed operation; wherein

said controller determines contents of said prescribed operation in accordance with the information taken by said information taking unit [Jeyachandran, col. 4, lines 7-11, i.e. control means for permitting the transmission means to transmit the object information].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ Jeyachandran's information taking means and the control means in the system of Nosaki with a motivation to allow detecting the presence of a process, at a predetermined time (by the manager), that has been instructed by a user that has not been performed [Jeyachandran, col. 2, lines 33-36].

As per claims 7, 14 and 21, Nosaki as modified teaches the apparatus for printing an image according to claims 6, 13 and 20 respectively, wherein said password accepting unit accepts a password by receiving the password transmitted from an external device [Jeyachandran, col. 10, lines 40-44, i.e. a storage medium on which is stored a program, which comprises; an identification step of ascertaining whether an operator is a manager]; and

Art Unit: 2131

said information taking unit, takes information by receiving the information related to said prescribed operation transmitted from said external device [Jeyachandran, col. 9, lines 45-50, a storage medium on which is stored program, which comprises a permission step of permitting the operator to instruct the deletion of all printing instructions stored in a print queue].

Note: Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. Applicant should consider the entire prior art as applicable as to the limitations of the claims. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner

Conclusion

4. Prior art made of record, not relied upon.

U.S. Patent No. 5,956,471 to Ueda et al.

US 6,313,921 to Kadowaki

U.S. Patent No. 4,843,571 to Notermans et al.

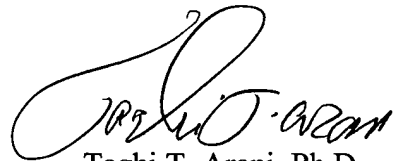
U.S. Patent No. 5,825,988 to Collard et al.

Art Unit: 2131

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (571) 272-3787. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2131
3/13/2006